**Hunger syndrome**

1611. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) declared during 2007 that 854 million people go hungry around the world and also predicted worse position during 2008;

(b) if so, whether this particular aspect has been kept in view in the perspective planning for Twelfth and Thirteenth Five Year Plans; and

(c) in what manner we can tackle this 'hunger syndrome' while expecting a four per cent agricultural growth and simultaneously, enormous growth in population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to the Food and Agricultural Organisation's (FAO) Global Hunger Index for the year 2007, it was estimated that 854 million people go hungry around the world. Food security considerations remain an area of priority in the process of perspective planning. The National Food Security Mission which has been set up during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, aims at increasing the food grains production by 20 Million Tonnes by the end of the Plan. A new Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has been launched to provide additional financial resources to state governments to finance agriculture development programmes emerging from district level agriculture plans which take into account district specific agro-climatic constraints. In addition, expansion of Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) and a renewed thrust at watershed development has been planned. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) gives the priority to the projects aimed at water conservation, and effective convergence of resources available under National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes (NREGS) with ultimately serving the larger objective of enhancing agriculture productivity.

**Bringing common man to mainstream**

†1612. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether our first Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had said that the objective of independence cannot be fulfilled until the weakest person of the society is not brought into the mainstream;

(b) whether this statement is not true, today; and

(c) the policy of Government to make this statement true?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in his speech on the eve of India's Independence elaborated the meaning of freedom by committing ourselves for the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.